

Coenonympha pamphilus Linnaeus, 1758

Níspola (cast.) Grogueta petita (cat.) , Small heath (eng.)

Distribution. North Africa, Europe, Turkey and the Middle East

Description . Adult. Small in size, with 25-30mm wingspan. The front of the wings is of a clear brown colour with a slight eyespot on the tip of the hindwings. The back of the hindwings is also brown, with a tip and greyish borders, and with a raised eyespot under the tip. The back of the forewings is greyish and the lower part is darker with blotches which are hard to distinguish and sometimes do not exist : often there is a much clearer postdiscal band on the centre of the hindwing. **Caterpillar.** Some 17 mm.. They hibernate. Green or ochre coloured with either light or dark long stripes. It has abundant small white dots. **Chrysalis** 10 mm. They hang down from the leaf of their foodplants. They are short, fat, and can be completely green or greyish on the base of the throat, and the remainder is coloured with brown lines.

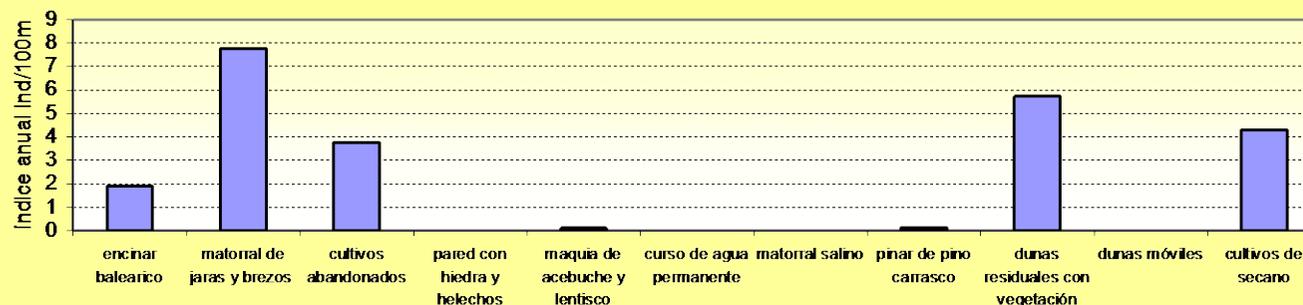
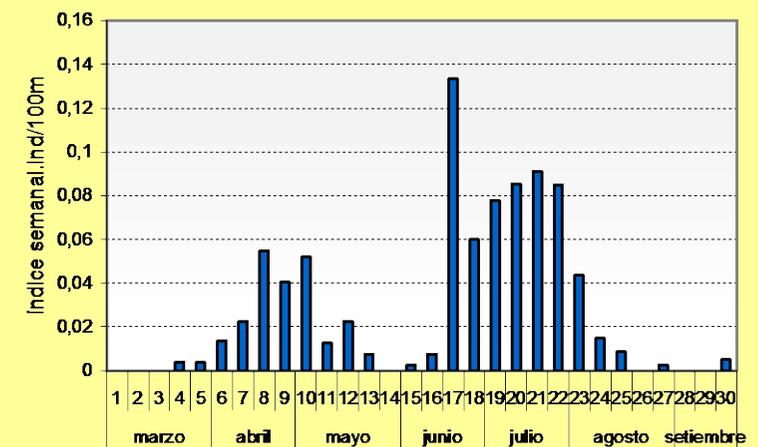
Foodplants. Various types of plants belonging to the grass family. (*Festuca* spp., *Anthoxanthum* spp., *Poa annua*, amongst others).

Coenonympha pamphilus in Menorca

Representation in the BMS (Butterfly Monitoring Scheme). A species which is rare in Menorca, the BMS has only registered 0.8% of sightings.

Flight time. More than one. The BMS has detected two clear generations in Menorca. It can appear in March-April until the end of August or September. Some of the larvae from the first generation eat quickly and are transformed into chrysalises and second generation adults, and others do not turn into chrysalises but enter into a state of hibernation until the next spring when they become chrysalises and are the first generation of the following year.

Habitat and behaviour. Open woods and scrubland. Bushes of rockrose and heather, meadows, sides of tracks, barren farmland and also dry cultivated land. It flies low and always keeps close to the ground



and rests on grass stalks. It flies for short distances.

Similar species found in Menorca. It can be confused with *Pyronia cecilia* when its wings are closed but *C. pamphilus* is smaller

Coenonympha pamphilus

